

Washington Amateur
Communications, Inc.
c/o Ed Oelschlager N3ZNI
60 Carl Avenue B-2
Eighty Four, PA 15330-2829

The WACOM

HAM

JUNE
2006

 Serving
Washington
County

Fox Hunting Tragedy

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Hamfest Announcements	2
WX4NHC On Air Tests	3
Coming Events	3
Hamfest Announcements	3

NEWINGTON, CT, May 30, 2006 —Two ARRL members from California are dead after the vehicle in which they were riding during a mobile hidden transmitter hunt went over a cliff in rugged terrain near Lake Isabella in Kern County. They were identified as Michael G. Obermeier, K6SNE, of Anaheim, and David A. Gordon-Ross, of Yucaipa. Obermeier, an ARRL Official Observer in Orange County, was 46. Gordon-Ross was 35.

"Mike and Dave were some of the best T-hunters in the biz," said Scott Press, N6SAP, calling both "true assets to this hobby." In his role as an OO, Obermeier reportedly had participated in the infamous Jack Garrison radio jamming case in the Los Angeles area.

According to media accounts, a Kern County Sheriff's Department search-and-rescue team located the victims early Monday, May 29. Obermeier was driving the 1991 4-wheel-drive Jeep Cherokee that apparently went out of control on Cook Peak Road while the pair was proceeding to the next hidden transmitter site. After caroming off a rock wall, the vehicle crossed the road and plunged down a 900-foot cliff. They were reported missing after failing to check in with T-hunt organizers.

Greg Pitta, KF6DBJ, reports Obermeier and Gordon-Ross were on a half-day multiple-transmitter T-hunt on Saturday, May 27. "Both K6SNE and N6IDF were expert transmitter hunters, each with hundreds of hunts completed, ranking with top scores in most," he said.

ARRL Amateur Radio Direction Finding (ARDF) Coordinator Joe Moell, KØOV, knew both men. *(Fox Hunt Continued on page 3)*

Field Day is Coming! June 24 & 25!

UPCOMING MEETINGS!



Next WACOM Monthly Meeting:

Thursday, June 1, 2006, 7:30 PM
Room 103, Washington County Building,
Downtown Washington.

Next WACOM Board of Directors Meeting:

Thursday, June 29, 7:30 PM
Krispy Kreme, Washington

All Welcome!



52nd Annual Breezeshooter's Hamfest

Sunday, June 4th, 2006 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Sponsored by the Breezeshooters

Butler Farm Show Grounds / Roe Airport, State Route 66, Butler PA

(The Farm Show Grounds are West of Butler between Butler and Evans City)

Talk-In on W3UDX/R 147.360+ Repeater

ICOM, Yaesu, Kenwood & MFJ Prizes from KJI Electronics:

1 st Prize:	IC-7000	6 th Prize:	MFJ-259B
2 nd Prize:	TS-2000	7 th Prize:	LDG AT-100 PRO
3 rd Prize:	TS-480ST	8 th Prize:	Astron RS-35A
4 th Prize:	FT-897D	9 th Prize:	MFJ-1279
5 th Prize:	IC-208H	10 th Prize:	Daiwa CN-101

Ten Half-Hour Prizes consisting of Five ICOM IC-V8 and Five Yaesu VX-170 Hand Helds

Prize Tickets \$2.00 Each or 3/\$5.00, 7/\$10, 15/\$20

For more information please go to

<http://www.breezeshooters.net/hamfest/hamfest.htm>

*WACOM Members are hereby invited to
the Eighth Annual WASH Picnic
at the Breezeshooter's Hamfest*

Sunday, June 4th, 2006, from approximately 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM

At the **WASH** Club Location, Somewhere Out in the Flea Market

(Look for us in the vicinity of the Grandstand, along the fence, near the Wash House)

Spend the morning meeting your fellow WPA & Regional Hams, buying or selling stuff & dodging roving golf carts full of Breezeshooters — then join your fellow **WACOM & WASH** members for lunch, friendship, bragging rights, and (if operational) operating N3SH/3 from the Flea Market.

This will be a "Pot Luck/Covered Dish" Picnic — The Club will be providing Burgers, Hot Dogs, and Soft Drinks. We're asking everyone coming to bring a side dish, snacks, dessert, ice, or whatever they can. Contact Ron WN3VAW [wn3vaw at verizon dot net](mailto:wn3vaw@verizon.net) to coordinate who's bringing what.

There is no charge to attend (outside of bringing something to share) but the picnic is not open to the general public, only **WACOM & WASH** members (including their families), friends & invited guests.

North Hills ARC 21st Anniversary Hamfest

Free Admission! Free Parking! A Real Old-Fashioned Hamfest

Sunday, July 9th 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Northland Public Library, 300 Cumberland Road, Wexford PA

Talk-in on 147.090 MHz

1st Prize: ICOM IC-706 MkIIIG

2nd Prize: ICOM IC-T7H

For more information, contact John Gormand N3RQD (412) 487-9254

On-Line www.nharc.pgh.pa.us or n3rqd@earthlink.net

(Fox Hunt Continued from page 1)

He notes that Obermeier had suffered a sports-related spinal cord injury that left him a paraplegic. "He did all the adaptive work on his vehicles, of which he had quite a few that he used over time for RDF," Moell said. Despite his physical limitations, Obermeier also enjoyed foxhunting from his wheel chair.

Moell says Gordon-Ross had been a proficient mobile T-hunter for many years. He took a brief hiatus after his first child was born in April 2005 (his wife, Melanie, is KF6GWV), but he recently became active again.

According to Moell, the mobile transmitter hunts take place on the fourth Saturday of each month on 2-meter FM simplex, starting out from a hilltop in Rancho Palos Verdes. He says it's not uncommon for the main hidden transmitter to be hundreds of miles away — 175 highway miles in this instance.

— courtesy of the American Radio Relay League

FYI Networks

For Your Information needs

Make FYI Your Internet Service Provider

CONTACT FYI AT 1-877-FYI-4NET OR WWW.FYI.NET

MENTION THAT YOU ARE A WACOM MEMBER FOR A SPECIAL PRICE OF \$18 / MONTH.

Upcoming Events

June 2 & 3 — US Power Squadron's Amateur Radio Net Special Event operating from W1AW

June 4 — Breezeshooter's Hamfest

June 24 & 25 — ARRL Field Day

July 9 — North Hills ARC Hamfest, Wexford PA

July 16 — Somerset Co ARC Hamfest

September 10 — Butler Co ARA Hamfest & WPA Convention

October 7 & 8 — California QSO Party

October 14 & 15 — Pennsylvania QSO Party

October 28 & 29 — CQ World Wide DX Contest SSB

November 4 & 5 — ARRL Sweepstakes CW

November 5 — WACOM Hamfest, Washington Co Fairgrounds

November 18 & 19 — ARRL Sweepstakes SSB

The National Hurricane Center's WX4NHC will conduct its "Hurricane Season 2006 On-the-Air Station Test" Saturday, June 3, from 1300 until 2200 UTC. The annual station test provides an opportunity for WX4NHC to check out all of its radio equipment, computers and antennas using as many modes and frequencies as possible. It's also a chance for RFI monitoring of NHC equipment and to conduct some operator training. It is *not* a contest or simulated hurricane exercise. WX4NHC will operate on HF, VHF and UHF. Phone frequencies will be 7.268, 14.325, 21.325 and 28.525 MHz. CW frequencies will be 14.035, 21.035 and 28.035 MHz. PSK31 will be on 14.070 MHz. Look for WX4NHC on the DX spotting networks as well. When working WX4NHC, report your call sign, signal report, location, name and a brief description of current weather conditions (eg, "sunny," "rainy," "windy"). QSL cards are available for an s.a.s.e to WX4NHC Assistant Amateur Radio Volunteer Coordinator Julio Ripoll, WD4R, 14855 SW 67 Ln, Miami, FL 33193-2027. Do *not* QSL directly to the National Hurricane Center.

In Honor of National Safe Boating Week, the United States Power Squadron's Amateur Radio Net will be operating from the Maxim Memorial Station, W1AW, on June 2 & 3.

All are invited to join USPS & ARRL on the air!

For more information on this event or on the USPS, please contact Don Stark N3HOW at stark84@nb.net

JOIN WACOM ON THE AIR

2 meter net: Every Tuesday at 8:30 PM on the W3CYO repeaters, 145.49 and 443.30 MHz

YL Net: Every Wednesday at 7:30 PM on 146.79 MHz (OM's are welcome too!)

10 meter net: Every Tuesday at 9:00 PM on 28.340 MHz

Washington Amateur Communications, Inc.
c/o Ed Oelschlager N3ZNI
60 Carl Avenue B-2
Eighty Four, PA 15330-2829



We're On the Web!
www.wacomarc.org

Opinions expressed in the WACOM HAM are those of the author and not necessarily those of Washington Amateur Communications, Inc.

Copyright ©2006 by WACOM, Washington Amateur Communications Inc.

Reproduction of material from The WACOM HAM is permitted if credit is attributed to the author and The WACOM HAM.

The editor welcomes articles and timely information of interest to members and the general amateur community.

The WACOM HAM

Editor: Ron Notarius WN3VAW
412-572-6723 wn3vaw@njdx.org

WACOM Officers

President: Jacqu  Gosselin N3ZEL
724-746-9235 n3zel@fyi.net

Vice President: Joe Caldwell N3XE
724-663-5708 joecaldwell.jc@gmail.com

Treasurer: Ed Oelschlager N3ZNI
724-746-9235 n3zni@arrl.net

Secretary: Susan Robishaw KB3JHQ
sracer318@netscape.net

Board of Directors

Elmer "Bud" Plants N3TIR
bnelectronics@starband.net

Dave Demotte N3IDH
724-228-8178 n3idh@hotmail.com

Bob Ketzell KB3IN
724-228-0425 kb3in@yahoo.net

Repeater

Sam Mayberry, W3CYO
724-222-0367 zammy@pghmail.com

PLEASE SEND YOUR 2006 DUES AND APPLICATION INFORMATION

Annual WACOM membership dues are only \$15 .
A couple pays only \$22.50.
Send your check payable to WACOM to:

Ed Oeschlager, N3ZNI,
Washington Amateur
Communications Inc.
60 Carl Avenue B-2
Eighty Four, PA 15330-2829



WACOM e-Mail Reflector

An e-mail reflector has been set up for WACOM members.

What's a reflector? It's a mailing list which lets you send one e-mail message to the list address — wa3com@yahoogroups.com — and have it "reflect" to all members of the list. Unlike a personal mailing list, you don't need to know all of the e-mail addresses for every single member of the list. Only group members can send e-mail to other members of the reflector — no spam allowed!

E-mail reflectors are being used by many area Amateur Radio clubs as a means to facilitate news and information at a moments notice. Yahoo! Groups (formerly eGroups) provides this service for free to anyone who wants to avail themselves of their list server. Yahoo! also provides calendar, file storage, & additional services.

To join the WACOM reflector, simply send a blank e-mail to:

wa3com-subscribe@yahoogroups.com